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HOW TO MAKE THE HONEYMOON LAST THROUGH LIFE

BY

ALEXANDER L. WADE

"TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE"

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HOW TO MAKE THE HONEYMOON LAST THROUGH LIFE

BY

ALEXANDER L. WADE

Till Hymen brought the love-delighted hour,
There dwelt no joy in Eden's rosy bower;
The world was sad, the garden was a wild,
And man, the hermit, sighed till woman smiled.

PHILADELPHIA
PRINTED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
1903

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By Alexander L. Wade

By
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HOW TO MAKE THE HONEYMOON LAST THROUGH LIFE

"It is not good that man should be alone."

BIBLE.

THE sublime mission of this tiny volume is to give instruction in the art of making the honeymoon last through life. There is no subject pertaining to this life alone so essential to human happiness as the perpetuation of the honeymoon. It stands second in interest only to "good tidings of great joy" proclaimed to the shepherds upon the hills of Judea.

God, who is good, certainly never in-

tended that the best love and highest joys of wedded life should be crowded into a few short weeks of honeymoon, and that later on, when children are being reared around the family fireside, looking to father and mother as their highest ideals, this love and these joys should be growing less as the years go by.

This little volume is not an experiment; it is simply the outgrowth and enlargement of a lecture upon the same subject prepared by the author, and delivered at sundry times and in divers places. The composition of his audiences in attendance upon this lecture proved conclusively that the doctrine of the perpetuation of the honeymoon is interesting alike to all classes. This leads the author to believe that it is as universal in its application as the Gospel of the "Man of Galilee."

In the discussion of this subject it is not the purpose of the author to set up a standard which no one has ever reached and to which no one can ever attain. He proposes rather to lay down one simple law of life with three several requirements which all can understand, and which, if observed, will not only perpetuate the honeymoon, but will lead to that which is better than honeymoon.

Now, the author asks permission to speak to his readers as if face to face with sons and daughters.

In making preparation for the discussion of this subject I relied very little upon what has been written in books. I chose rather to obtain information direct from intelligent people. Much of what has been written upon this subject is only theory,—most of it is stale,—while infor-

mation obtained direct from intelligent people is like unto pure water fresh from the fountain.

I may be permitted here to acknowledge that in the preparation of the pith and gist of the matter contained in this little volume the major helps which I received were from women, while the minor helps were from men. This confession is not a criticism upon the sterner sex, for it is no want of compliment to either of the sexes to say that each excels the other in certain elements of both body and brain.

As a rule, man excels in strength and woman in beauty; man's judgment is superior to woman's judgment on questions of law, while woman's conclusions are superior to man's on questions of love.

After this slight digression I return to my subject in order to present the opinions

of some cultured people concerning what I had long believed to be an invariable law of life,—the keynote in the perpetuation of the honeymoon,—which law I had laid down in these words:

"The longer a well-matched couple live together the better they will love each other."

In a town of some pretensions, situated upon the banks of a Southern river a little less than one degree distant from Mason and Dixon's Line, I had an invitation to take supper with an interesting family. After the meal had been served and enjoyed and the children had been excused from the table, I was left alone in conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis, the father and mother of the children.

In the course of the conversation the mother said:

"Mr. Wade, I see in the papers that you are preparing a lecture on 'How to Make the Honeymoon Last Through Life.' The title is certainly good."

"Yes," said Mr. Jarvis; "if the lecture is as good as the title, every one should hear it."

"Do tell us something about it," said Mrs. Jarvis. "What is it like?"

Responding to this request of my hostess I said, "I have laid down a single law with only one requirement, and I want you and your husband to tell me whether that law will hold good."

"Let us hear that law," said Mrs. Jarvis.

I repeated, slowly and distinctly, the words, "The longer a well-matched couple live together the better they will love each other."

"What do you think of that?" said I.

"Well," said she, "it seems as if it ought to be that way."

Turning to the husband I asked, "What do you say to that, Mr. Jarvis?"

Looking Mrs. Jarvis in the face, he said, "Wife, that's the way it is."

The wife turned her eyes upon her husband; it was but a glance, and though she uttered not a word, her expression seemed to say, "Now, I wonder if that is what you really believe."

Continuing the conversation, she said, "That law will hold good with people who have been well raised, but many have been so badly raised that to me it appears impossible to so match them as to make love last. You can safely say, 'The longer a well-raised and well-matched couple live

together, the better they will love each other.' "

Becoming convinced that to be well raised is an essential element in the perpetuation of the honeymoon, I added another requirement to the law laid down, putting the same thought in another form, making it read as follows:

"In order to make the honeymoon last through life the couple should be

"1. Well raised.

"2. Well matched."

Only a fortnight after the foregoing incident I received an invitation to a fashionable dinner given by a distinguished family at their colonial home, situated in one of the most beautiful valleys of the Southland. The husband and wife were known far and wide as perfect entertainers and dispensers of the most generous hospitality.

After the courses had all been served and the toasts had been responded to, our hostess, Mrs. Faulkner, a queenly woman, wearing as her crown of glory the silver of years, said, "I see in some of the public prints that one of the guests at our table is preparing a lecture entitled 'How to Make the Honeymoon Last Through Life,' and I will ask him to tell us something about it." As there seemed to be a desire on the part of the guests to hear something upon the subject of the honeymoon, our host, Mr. Faulkner, said, "Mr. Wade is now at liberty to speak for our entertainment."

Addressing the assembled company, I said, "In discussing the subject of the perpetuation of the honeymoon, I have laid down a single law with only two requirements, which law I think is true

to life; and I wish to ask, in turn, our host and hostess and the guests around the table to tell me whether this law will hold good in life. The law laid down is:

"The longer a well-raised and well-matched couple live together the better they will love each other."

Turning to the host, who was distinguished as a statesman, a diplomat, and an attorney-at-law, I said, "Mr. Faulkner, is that good law?"

He hesitated but a moment, and then, turning his eyes upon his wife, who sat at the opposite end of the table, he replied: "I can speak only from experience. I find it so in ourselves." The wife's face brightened with a tinge of surprise, but more of pleasure, that her husband had made this confession, and she gracefully acknowledged the compliment.

I next addressed myself to our hostess. "Mrs. Faulkner," said I, "will that law hold good in life?"

"That law," said she, "is good as far as it goes, but much depends upon management. Serious as the charge may seem, it is nevertheless true that most couples, awhile after marriage, lay aside, in a large degree, those fine courtesies and gentle graces that lend such charms to courtship. They give greater attention to their friends than they give to each other. This course, which would have produced a break in courtship, can do nothing less than chill the ardor in their veins."

Addressing myself, now, to the guests, I said, "What think you all of this law? Will it hold good?" Like unto a jury which renders its verdict without retiring

to its room for consultation, these guests then and there decided that with Mrs. Faulkner's requirement,—good management after marriage,—which they accepted without hesitation, the law is complete, and they asked me to state it as it now stands. This I did in these words:

"In order to make the honeymoon last through life the couple should be

"1. Well raised.

"2. Well matched.

"3. Well managed."

WELL RAISED

"Train up a child in the way he should go."
BIBLE.

I NOW proceed to discuss, in turn, the three several requirements for the perpetuation of the honeymoon.

First: In order to make the honeymoon last through life

THE COUPLE SHOULD BE WELL RAISED.

Young people who have been reared in idleness are not well raised. They seldom become diligent in business, and they are rarely capable of taking care of money, even if it come to them by inheritance.

Numbers of young men in Europe who boast of royal blood and who have been raised in idleness are unable to make a living and have no future before them. In contradistinction to this, permit me to mention the fact that the six children of the present King and the late Queen of Denmark were all taught to work. Three of these six children are now numbered among the crowned heads of Europe. The second son, George I., is King of Greece. Two daughters, Alexandra, Queen of England, and Dagmar, Empress Dowager of Russia, the mother of the present Czar, Nicholas II., were trained by the Queen-Mother, Louise, in the art of needlework, domestic cookery, and other wifely accomplishments; and in such demand, in the matrimonial market, did her daughters become that Queen

Louise has been wittily called "the mother-in-law of Europe."

Our sons should be imbued with the sentiment contained in these words of Holy Writ:

"If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

Our daughters should be trained to follow the footsteps of that woman of old of whom it is written:

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

These two passages of Scripture need no interpretation.

Our sons should be taught gallantry, which is an element of manhood, but not an attribute of womanhood. Throughout

life, in a large degree, man must please by what he does, while woman pleases by what she is.

Our sons should be taught that next to their duty to God is their loyalty to good women. They should be impressed with the fact that they are the protectors of woman, and that unfair treatment of her is the betrayal of the highest trust. They should be taught that they ought to be as true and pure as they expect their sisters and sweethearts to be.

The father and mother must stand as the embodiment of all that they wish their sons and daughters to be.

Having presented several subjects upon which young people should receive instruction, as essential helps to the perpetuation of the honeymoon, let me now mention some serious hinderances to the same.

Much of what our young people see and hear has a tendency to shatter their confidence in the perpetuation of love.

The public press teems with intimations that the honeymoon is of short duration, and some of the most popular lecturers upon the platform are fond of telling anecdotes which cast shadows upon married life. Very much of the fiction read by young people tells stories of unfaithful husbands and wives, and many theatres persist in presenting upon the stage representatives of married couples who are untrue to each other.

The most pernicious example set before the young is the conduct of married men and women who have made unfortunate matches.

It is to be regretted that the early joys of married life were ever named honey-

moon, since the moon is the most changeable of all the celestial bodies visible to the naked eye. These joys from beginning to end should have been named for the sun, the great orb of day. Think of a beautiful sunrise, a splendid noonday, and a golden sunset, and you have the highest emblem of the true married life. It is true that the brightness of the sun is sometimes obscured by clouds, but even then we know that it is shining on the other side and will soon be revealed through a rift in the clouds.

WELL MATCHED

"Be not unequally yoked."

BIBLE.

SECOND: In order to make the honeymoon last through life

THE COUPLE SHOULD BE WELL MATCHED.

The state of being well matched does not mean that in all things the two are alike. It means that each possesses attributes which are agreeable to the other, although these attributes may differ as the north pole of a magnet differs from its south pole. By an inexplicable law of nature, we all have our preferences. There are people whose presence gives

us pleasure, and there are others, equally good, whose presence gives us pain.

An eminent divine, in addressing a great assemblage of preachers and a great audience of people, gave utterance to the most extreme sentiments upon this subject. He said:

"Jesus of Nazareth had His favorites. Of the twelve apostles—men of His own choosing—He preferred Peter, James, and John. We all have our likes and dislikes. Some people charm us while others chill us; and they are not responsible and we are not responsible. There are people I would like to have near me, and there are people I would like to have far away. There are people I would like to canonize, and there are people I would like to cannonade; and I am glad to know that in heaven there is to be plenty of room."

Extreme as the foregoing sentiments may appear, history records examples of matches made by outsiders where the dislike of husband and wife for each other became equally extreme.

A late number of an American magazine tells the story of a beautiful countess who a few years ago, at the dictation of others, married her cousin; and her dislike for him finally became so intense that she has chosen to suffer banishment from the German court rather than live under the same roof with her husband.

I come now to consider matches which are congenial by natural affinity, and which merit the approval of parents and friends.

The couple should be about equal in education, intelligence, taste, and social standing. By reading and conversation,

and by the cultivation of their love of the beautiful, this equality should be fostered throughout life. If either excel the other in attainments, it is fortunate if that superiority is found on the side of the one who is likely to have the principal care in the training of children.

The couple should be well matched as to age—there should not be too much disparity of years. If a young woman marry an old man, she will probably be a widow in the prime of life. This point is well illustrated by a story told of a Southern planter in the days of slavery. The planter was a bachelor, fifty-six years of age, and he was engaged to a girl only eighteen. He had a colored servant who had been his housekeeper many years, and he decided to tell her of his coming marriage; so he said to her:

"Aunt Dinah, I'm going to be married soon."

"Who to, Marster?" asked she. He gave her the name of the prospective bride, whom she knew well, and then asked:

"What do you think of her?"

"She's mighty nice," said Dinah, "but you's too ole for her."

"Why," said he, "I am just in my prime."

The brows of the old darky were knit as in deep thought for a moment, and she replied:

"But, Marster, when she gits to her prime whar'll yo' prime be?"

The age at which young people should marry depends upon such a variety of circumstances that it is impossible to be specific.

A couple should not marry until after their school period is ended. They should have sufficient money in sight with which to begin married life. The young man should have the ability to provide a living, and the young woman should possess those accomplishments which are essential to homekeeping. If they have inherited wealth, they need, alike, to understand the rules of business and the ways of the household.

The average age at which university graduates marry, and especially those of the learned profession, is alarmingly late in life. Several heads of great universities have been investigating with much interest the causes which lead to late marriages among their graduates.

President Charles W. Eliot, of Harvard University, in his late annual report, says:

"The standard set up by the learned profession, at least in law and medicine, is so high, the requirements of preparation are so exacting, that late marriages or no marriages at all are becoming common."

He says, further: "In looking backward to a period thirty years in the past, I find that twenty-eight per cent. of the surviving members of the classes of 1872, '73, and '74 are unmarried."

Two remedies have been suggested by university presidents which, if put into practice, would enable students to graduate at an earlier age.

President William R. Harper, of the Chicago University, says:

"There is no question but the young man should get out of college earlier than he does by at least two years. These two years ought to be made up in his ele-

mentary education. The two years he would gain in this way would enable him to accumulate money to enable him to marry earlier."

President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University, New York, in speaking of the preparation for professional schools, says:

"There should be a college course of two years in length, carefully constructed, as a thing in itself and not merely the first part of a three years' or four years' course, which will enable professional students to spend this time as advantageously as possible in purely liberal studies. The university colleges can establish such a course readily enough. A four years' course should not be required, for the reason that it delays too long entrance upon active life-work."

Dr. George F. Shrady, an eminent physician, said to a reporter of the New York *Herald:*

"From my personal knowledge of the medical profession, I do not believe that one young man in a hundred, when he is graduated and is licensed to practise, is in a position to marry and maintain a family. Given good abilities, good habits, industry, a thorough preliminary education, and post-graduate courses, not one young physician in fifty, at the age of thirty years, is really able to earn a proper living for himself, to say nothing of the maintenance of a wife and family. Ordinarily, such a young man, however well equipped for his professional duties, if he depend upon his practice exclusively, will have to wait at least five years after taking his degree before he can, probably, sup-

port himself; and these will be years calling for patience, courage, and hard work. The average physician, nowadays, unless he enjoy resources other than his profession, is thirty-five or forty years old before he finds himself in position to marry."

Notwithstanding the fact that the opinions of some university presidents and eminent physicians may be to the contrary, I advise young men who are prepared to enter upon the practice of their professions to hesitate and consider before they decide to spend years in the accumulation of money as a preparation for marriage. There is danger that years of single life, devoted to work and to study, may do much to wither the tendrils of love, cool the ardor of sentiment and romance, and make the subject of marriage a mere matter of business.

When God said, "It is not good that man should be alone," He uttered words which are as applicable to us as they were to Adam in the Garden of Eden. They were spoken without limitation. It is not good financially, any more than it is good intellectually, socially, or spiritually, for man to be alone. Our greatest financiers and millionaires are married men, not bachelors.

Men are mistaken when they suppose that a woman has not sufficient self-denial to enjoy plain living, if necessary, with the man she loves. Many a sensible young woman, if asked to do so, would gladly unite her destiny with the man she loves just as he is entering upon his life-work, knowing that in helping her husband she would need, for a time, to exercise special prudence and foresight.

I wish here to present two pictures for the consideration of those who are preparing to practise one of the learned professions.

A young man of liberal education and limited means, of good health and industrious habits, and who had just received his license, was seeking a location for the practice of medicine. With this object in view he visited a town of some three or four hundred inhabitants, situated not far from the Atlantic coast.

By inquiry he learned from a citizen of the place the following facts:

"This town," said the citizen, "boasts of but one physician, an old-time doctor who has grown rich from his long practice. He has never been known to push any of his debtors, but he makes annual settlements with all of them, and takes

notes, with interest from date, from each one who is not prepared to pay. Either from friendship for the doctor or from fear of giving offence, our people have given little encouragement to any competitor. More than one worthy young man, in the past twenty years, has made an earnest effort to establish a practice in this town, but in each case he was starved out."

Our young physician was a man of courage, and he had no conception of obstacles which are insurmountable; so he proceeded to look for a boarding-place and a suitable room for an office. He found that he could have choice of several boarding-places, and for a time it seemed that he was on the eve of securing one of several rooms for an office, but this hope proved illusive.

At this juncture a citizen of the town proposed to lease to him for a term of years a neat cottage which had never been occupied. This cottage with its ample grounds was situated upon a suburban elevation overlooking the town. As this appeared to be the only thing in sight, he leased the property for five years with the privilege of purchasing the same at the expiration of that time, or sooner, at a price agreed upon and entered of record.

As the cottage contained more room than he needed for office purposes, he sat down to consider what use he should make of the remaining space, and he was not long in deciding what he would do. He was already engaged to the only daughter of a well-to-do farmer, and, as soon as his finances would justify, it was their purpose to consummate this engagement.

Though aware of the fact that, according to the expressed opinion of leading members of his profession, he was not prepared to marry, he resolved to ask his betrothed to become his bride at an early day.

The lady of his choice was two years younger than himself, and had just returned from college, where she had taken her degree. Without unnecessary delay he called upon her, presented the situation, and proposed an early marriage. She accepted his proposal in these glad words: "It will be a joy to me to share some self-denial with the man I love."

The father and mother, when asked, gave their consent, and the wedding-day was fixed. It was a handsome couple and a happy wedding. The mother presented her daughter with a complete out-

fit for their cottage, and the father's gift was a horse and buggy.

Instead of going on a wedding-tour they went to their own home, where the wife became at once both housekeeper and queen.

After a consultation, it was agreed that two rooms in the cottage could be spared for office purposes; so the young doctor ordered suitable furniture for the same.

He next called upon the old doctor of the town and presented his credentials. He was received with professional courtesy, which later developed into real friendship.

Ten years have elapsed since the marriage, and this town has now a population of over three thousand inhabitants. It is a noted summer resort, and our young physician has a large paying practice,

especially among the rich who come here in quest of health. The cottage has been paid for, and a front addition of architectural beauty has been completed.

On an ideal day in the month of June, a stranger registered at the new hotel which had just been opened. He was a gentleman of striking presence and evident culture. In looking in the directory his eye caught the name of a former classmate in the medical college—the young doctor of the town. He delayed not to make inquiry as to where he could find the young physician, and he was directed to the "cottage on the hill," the name which the residence still retains, although it occupies only a gentle elevation in sight of the sea.

The stranger entered the front gate and went up the walk, which had on either side a border of young shade-trees and shrub-

bery. As he drew near the cottage he saw a profusion of vines and flowers, and he heard the merry laughter and glad voices of children.

The maid-servant answered his call at the door, and he asked, "Is the doctor in?"

The maid replied: "This is the doctor's office-hour and he is engaged with patients. Do you wish to see him on business?"

"I wish to see him as a friend," said the stranger.

The maid ushered him into the parlor and announced his arrival to the mistress of the house.

The ease and grace with which the lady entered the parlor and introduced herself as the doctor's wife indicated that she was accustomed to meeting strangers.

After handing her his card he said, "I

was a classmate of your husband in the medical college. I have not seen him since we graduated together, and I have called to-day to renew our acquaintance."

She assured him that he was most welcome; that it always afforded her pleasure to meet the friends of her husband, and she asked him to be at ease for half an hour, when the doctor would be at liberty to see him. In order to create a pleasant surprise the doctor had not been informed of his friend's arrival.

The love of David and Jonathan for each other is emphasized in the Bible, and we are too apt to think of it as a case without a parallel. If we but open our eyes upon college life alone we will see like examples of equal love of men for each other. The two who, after a separation of ten years, are now about to meet were

lovers at college, and when the doctor entered the parlor and recognized his college classmate there was a greeting such as only love can give. The wife, too, came into the parlor and was introduced, this time by her husband. Their three children—one in arms—were brought in, one son and two daughters. The mother repeated their names in the order of their ages and said, " These are our jewels."

The friend was cordially invited to remain and take dinner with them, and he heartily accepted the invitation. The wife excused herself and went to superintend the preparation for the entertainment of their guest, while the two college chums talked over their individual experiences of the past ten years. The conversation brought out the facts that the guest was still unmarried; that each was a well-

known physician and surgeon, with a paying practice, in the place where he was located; that the married man had enjoyed a good practice from the beginning, while the single man, for the first five years, made but little more than a bare living for himself.

At this juncture the wife returned to the parlor and announced that dinner was ready. They accompanied her to the dining-room, where a repast "fit for a king" was placed before them, and at which the hostess presided with dignity and grace.

When the meal was finished and while the trio still sat at the table the guest said, "Please tell me, for I want to know, how you got so good a start in so short a time in the practice of medicine?"

In responding to this question our host,

with a significant glance at his wife, replied: "You see, I had a partner who was specially popular with young people. She took an active part in young people's societies, social, literary, and religious, as she had been accustomed to do while in college. Though for a time she was her own housekeeper, she answered the calls of those who came to see me in my absence, and she accompanied to my office many a timid one who came for consultation. By her artless manner and kindly sympathy she wielded an influence of which she was altogether unconscious, and it is impossible for me to estimate the value of this unconscious influence upon my practice as a physician. But this is not all; my wife has helped to make my work enjoyable, and the children which have been given us have not only strengthened our love for

each other, but they have made life more and more worth the living."

After a few moments of almost breathless silence the guest, in a voice tender with emotion, thus addressed the hostess: "I think, now, that I made a grave mistake when I decided not to marry ten years ago, as did your husband. The way was then open for me to do so, but I took the advice of those who were older and, I supposed, wiser. I am now wedded to my profession, and it is a matter of serious doubt as to whether I shall ever take to myself a wife."

I come now to consider the most romantic period in human life—courtship. Courtship is like the dipping of the magnetic needle before it settles. It is a time of interesting anxiety. It is a period of pleasurable uncertainty. In true court-

ship, there is a natural coyness which tends to concealment, and it is this element which lends to courtship much of its charm. Observation proves that innocent deception is practised even by the birds of the forest while choosing their mates.

It is a wise provision in the law of nature that the couple should remain noncommittal until they become satisfied that they are suited to each other; and it is certainly less painful to break a courtship when the interested parties have not committed themselves.

When a young lady and gentleman, meeting for the first time, are mutually attracted, it is said to be a case of "love at first sight." Love at first sight may indicate only that the couple are congenial by natural affinity, while in several essential elements they may be totally unsuited

to each other. Many unfortunate matches have been hastily made from love at first sight. This is, indeed, a risk which should never be taken.

Every marriage should be preceded by a courtship neither too short nor too long. The shortest courtship which can safely precede a marriage is one in which the two have known each other from childhood or youth, and where the members of both families have long been upon the most friendly terms. In most marriages, however, which have been consummated, the knowledge that the parties had of each other at the beginning of their courtship was quite limited.

The gentleman in most cases has the advantage, since he usually sees the lady at her own home. He thus has an opportunity to learn something of the home-life

of herself and family, and to become acquainted with her most intimate associates.

A beautiful custom, by no means universal, provides that the one whose hand is sought shall be the invited guest of the ladies of the suitor's household, in order that the sources of her information may be equal to his.

Long years of waiting are likely to chill the glow of the purest love. It is a noticeable fact that long courtships and long engagements seldom result in marriage.

There is one practice in courtship which cannot be too severely condemned. It is that of a young man who carries on a protracted courtship with a young lady, winning her affections, and at the same time keeping her in doubt as to whether it is his intention ever to make her his wife.

In a case of this kind—if it be the young lady's wish to retain her suitor—there are only two remedies, both of which are so delicate that custom scarcely sanctions either. The first is for the father or mother to ask the young man to declare his intentions concerning the daughter, and the second is for the daughter to ascertain for herself.

I present, as an example, the following incident which was related to me by one of the participants.

Ruth Marshall, a beautiful girl, reared in the atmosphere of a college town in one of the Middle Atlantic States, had attained the age when she was permitted to receive company. Vinton Austin, a young business man of her acquaintance, began at once to wait upon her.

The families of the couple were of

equal standing, and there was no objection on either side to the courtship. The gentleman continued his attentions month after month and year after year, and, apparently, was a devoted lover.

As Miss Marshall grew in years she increased in beauty. It was the beauty of culture. Her knowledge of music, vocal and instrumental, together with other gifts and graces, made her a social favorite. Her suitor had no rivals, for the young men of her acquaintance recognized her as the fiancée of Vinton Austin.

The years in which most women marry —if they marry at all—were passing, and her suitor had neither proposed marriage nor hinted at an engagement. Her parents, understanding the situation, had several times urged her to dismiss him, but

she was unwilling to do so, for he had led her to believe that he loved her.

At this critical juncture in family affairs the mother expressed a determination to ask the gentleman, upon his next visit, to declare his intentions. The daughter was horrified at her mother's resolve, and entreated her most earnestly not to take such a step. When she found her mother inflexible, her heart sank within her; but soon it seemed that a good angel appeared to strengthen her, and she said, "I, myself, must assume this responsibility, for I can speak to Vinton Austin as no one else can."

Throughout the years of their entire courtship Ruth Marshall had entertained a lover's firm belief that her suitor intended at some time to make her his wife, but the bitter cup which she had just

tasted had in a measure sobered her brain. As the eyes of her understanding opened she saw the utter unfairness of Vinton Austin's conduct in keeping her for so long a time in doubt as to his intentions, and her love for him began to give place to indifference.

The time was approaching for Vinton Austin to make his accustomed visit. Ruth Marshall had been thinking of his long and devoted attentions and her heart had grown tender. She felt condemned that in his absence she had unkindly judged him, even in her own heart, and she was glad to give him an opportunity to declare his purpose.

True to his promise, Vinton Austin called upon Miss Marshall at the time appointed and was cordially received. She appeared more beautiful than ever

before. In the course of the evening's conversation she asked, half playfully, "Do you suppose we shall ever be married?"

There was a momentary silence, and Vinton Austin replied: "One thing I have often thought of telling you. When I first began business I determined to save twenty thousand dollars before I would marry, and I have not yet one-half of that amount."

"All right," said Miss Marshall, and she changed the subject of conversation.

When the time came for him to leave she extended her hand and, in a sweet voice, said, "I will now bid you good-by. May you reach the goal of your ambition—twenty thousand dollars. I shall not expect you to visit me again."

A clap of thunder from a clear sky

would not have been a greater surprise than were Ruth Marshall's words dismissing him as her suitor.

As he walked home alone under the light of the stars it seemed to him that he had just awakened from some horrid dream.

Upon reaching home he retired, but could not sleep until after he had reached the conclusion that Ruth Marshall would surely relent and invite him to visit her again. He did not abandon this hope until he learned that she had a new suitor —a gentleman near her own age, a leading member of one of the learned professions.

A year later Vinton Austin received an invitation to Ruth Marshall's wedding. The occasion was a brilliant affair, and congratulations were showered upon the

happy couple. Vinton Austin went forward and wished them joy, but there was neither elasticity in his step nor emphasis in his voice. To him the occasion seemed more like a funeral than a wedding.

Some years after these events occurred Vinton Austin, in telling the story of his courtship and Ruth Marshall's marriage, said, " I have never since seen a lady that I could love. Had Ruth Marshall discarded me without giving me a chance, I could have forgotten her; but the fact that she had the courage to give me an opportunity proved that she belonged to the nobility."

Vinton Austin's conduct in this case is by no means without a parallel, but all young men of noble principle will readily admit that his treatment of Ruth Marshall, who had so long trusted him, was

dishonorable in the extreme, and that it was base ingratitude to bring such embarrassment to a home in which he had so often been entertained.

Every courtship, whether or not it ends in marriage, should leave a pleasing memory.

The climax of the subject, well matched, is the marriage. The wedding is the crowning glory of the courtship—the introduction to the honeymoon.

I can offer no higher proof that marriage is a holy ordinance than the fact that the Bible is rich in references to weddings and wedding-garments, to brides and bridegrooms. No social gathering in human history was ever more highly honored than the marriage in Cana of Galilee, where Jesus, His mother, and His disciples were present as invited

guests, and where Jesus performed His first miracle.

While the couple are planning the details of their approaching marriage, little advice can properly be given them. It is not out of place, however, to say that their wedding expenses should not be such as to embarrass them after marriage. I venture, also, to offer an additional word of advice concerning a matter which is too often neglected. The couple should so plan that on their wedding-day they may be at their best, both physically and mentally.

Whether they have a quiet family wedding or whether they have an elaborate affair, this and all other questions concerning the coming event should be settled by the personal preference of the parties themselves. This personal preference, or

individual taste, affords variety in decoration and dress akin to the infinite variety found in the flowers of the field.

The hour for the wedding has arrived, and we see the couple at the marriage altar plighting their faith each to the other, and when the words pronouncing them husband and wife have been uttered, we have witnessed one of the most intensely interesting events in human life.

WELL MANAGED

"They twain shall be one flesh."
BIBLE.

THIRD: In order to make the honeymoon last through life

THE COUPLE SHOULD BE WELL MANAGED.

The newly married couple should go to their own home, and not remain with the parents of either. In order that they may be essential to each other, they should be alone.

Victor Hugo's allusion to the young married couple when first left to themselves borders upon the sublime. He says, "If, at this supreme hour, the pair rendered sacred by love and knowing them-

selves to be alone were to listen, they would hear in their chamber a confused rustling of wings, for perfect happiness always implies the presence of angels. This little alcove has an entire heaven for its ceiling. There is no joy above their joy, and all the rest weeps."

In ancient times, when war was the principal occupation, it was a custom among the Jews that during the first year after marriage a man should "not go out to war." He was, for that period, to be "free at home to cheer up his wife which he had taken."

The first year of married life may properly be called the critical period. Up to the time of marriage the couple have perhaps seen little of each other except as lovers, when both were anxious to please, and life in each other's company was a joy.

If, after marriage, they conclude that their "fortune is now made," and cease their efforts to please each other, they need not be surprised if their married life prove to be a disappointment. In order to perpetuate the honeymoon the couple should never stop courting so long as they live.

When they enter their own home for the first time, the wife should be given entire charge of household affairs, and the husband should become chief of his department. Here an imaginary line should be drawn and each should accept the duties assigned and not encroach upon the other. Of course, there is common interest, and there should be consultation and sympathy. There is one rule which, if observed, will always bring pleasure—namely, work well done by either should always elicit praise from the other.

In their daily intercourse they should not lay aside those graces which are the marks of refinement. It is said of Edward Everett, that scholarly gentleman, that in all his busy life he was never in so much of a hurry that he did not rise and give his wife a chair when she entered his room. For such gallantry shown to a wife our admiration would be none the less though the husband be attired in the plainest clothing.

If, while looking to the ways of her household and clad in a simple gown, the wife wear upon her breast either a pretty pin, a bright ribbon, or a beautiful flower, she will greatly increase her attractions in the eyes of her husband.

In case the husband's duties require him for a time to be located at a distant point, the wife should not allow the allurements

of friends to cause her to remain with them and let her husband go alone. History records no higher example of wholesome advice upon this subject than the counsel given by Robert E. Lee, later the great Southern commander, to the young wife of Winfield Scott Hancock, afterwards one of the noted generals of the North.

In a volume entitled "Reminiscences of Winfield Scott Hancock"—by his wife—we learn something of the self-denial required to enable a young wife to leave the brilliant attractions at the National Capital and accompany her husband beyond the pale of society.

The following extract from these "Reminiscences" shows how strong were these attractions and how opportune the advice of General Lee:

"Late in the fifties Mr. Hancock, then a captain, stationed at Benecia, California, received a leave of absence and returned to the East by way of the Isthmus for the purpose of escorting his family to the Pacific coast. A short sojourn of two months, most delightfully spent with his family and friends in Washington City, brought him to the close of this indulgence.

"As I refer to those days," says Mrs. Hancock, "so rich in memories and reminiscences of men and women who at that time occupied the most honorable and distinguished positions in the Government, and who were destined to play so important a part in the great drama that so soon followed, I may be pardoned if I digress a little in giving them a passing notice.

"Miss Harriet Lane, mistress of the

White House, with her personal charms and courtly manners, was a universal favorite, and did great credit to Mr. Buchanan's administration. Mrs. Davis, wife of the Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, whom I well remember, was endowed with many remarkable qualities that made her eminently fitted to be a presiding genius, and her entertainments brought together the most cultivated class of Washington society. Mrs. Joe Johnston was another shining light in the great capital, a person of unusual intelligence and quick at repartee, which made her most fascinating in conversation. Her charming reunions are long to be remembered by those who were admitted within this charmed circle.

"How well do I remember General Robert E. Lee, then a major, who was

stationed in Washington at that time. He was the beau-ideal of a soldier and a gentleman. When bidding us ' good-by' and ' Godspeed,' upon the eve of our departure, he said to me, ' I understand that you contemplate deserting your post, which is by your husband's side, and that you are not going to California with him. If you will pardon me, I should like to give you a little advice. You must not think of doing this. As one considerably older than Hancock, and having had greater experience, I consider it fatal to the future happiness of young married people, upon small provocation, to live apart either for a short or long time. The result is invariably that they cease to be essential to each other. Now promise me that you will not permit him to sail without you.'

"The sequel," says Mrs. Hancock, "shows how faithfully I sought to follow that noble man's admonition, and how often in my varied experience I had occasion to transmit to others his disinterested, truthful convictions."

There is an experience in the lives of most married couples which, if properly improved, increases the love of husband and wife for each other to a degree unknown in the earlier joys of the honeymoon. I refer to the time when children are being reared around the family fireside, looking to father and mother as their highest ideals. The united love, wisdom, and skill of both are at that time essential, and business should not so monopolize the father's time that the responsibility of training the children will be almost or altogether imposed upon the mother.

Many fathers are absent from their families so much of the time that when they visit their homes they seem like guests rather than heads of the household. The following humorous incident illustrating this point appears in an American magazine.

A commercial traveller, who had a wife and several small children, so planned his trips that he could reach home late on Saturday evenings and leave home early on Monday mornings. He took Sunday literally as a day of rest, and remained in bed most of the time, except when at his meals. Upon one occasion he was at home on a week-day, attending to some business, and on leaving he saw one of his children, a lad five or six years old, in the front yard cutting up some capers. He gave the boy's ears a sound boxing and went on

his way. The boy resented the indignity and called loudly for his mother. When she appeared at the front door and asked, "What's the matter, Johnny?" the boy, with face flushed with rage, replied: "That red-headed man that stays at our house Sundays boxed my ears."

If such conduct as that of the aforesaid husband and father be persisted in, it would not be surprising if the result should be a total and continuous eclipse of the honeymoon.

If the married couple have as their ideal a honeymoon of only a few short weeks, it is not at all likely to last through life. They should have, instead, as their ideal a life-long honeymoon and live for its perpetuation.

Unfortunate matches are constantly paraded in the public prints and form

the topic of conversation in certain circles, while mention is seldom made of those whose unchanging love has stood the test of time. "A cloud of witnesses," if called upon, could testify that, with them, the honeymoon has lasted for a decade, for a score of years, even for half a century.

The following incident is a beautiful example of the continuation of love: A couple who had recently celebrated their golden wedding lived in a cosey home in a rural district. The children were all married and settled within easy reach of the parental home. Some of their children and grandchildren were with them most of the time. This aged couple were almost inseparable. When the husband returned at any time from looking over the farm he always went to the door of his wife's room, and it mattered not how many were

in the room, if his wife were not in sight, he would invariably ask, "Where are all the folks?"

The concluding topic of this tiny volume is an answer to the question, If, from indifference, the honeymoon has waned and the fires of love have been quenched, can the one be renewed and the other rekindled?

I herewith give as an illustration an incident from real life.

Farmer Tucker was the owner of a small estate in New England, and was industrious and thrifty. At the age of thirty he married a lady somewhat younger than himself—the daughter of a neighboring farmer. They went on a wedding-tour to Boston—the first time that either of them had seen that "City of Culture." On their return they at

once began housekeeping, and for a time their happiness was complete. The wife was her own housekeeper, a work for which she was well fitted, and the husband looked after the affairs of the farm.

Only a few months after their marriage the husband suggested that, as they lived within two miles of town, they might as well increase the number of their Jersey cows and carry on a small dairy, thereby adding to their income. The wife consented to the new arrangement, but was surprised when her husband told her that she would need no assistance except what he, himself, could render.

This employment demanded early hours in the morning and late hours in the evening. So laborious an existence kept them too tired to be agreeable. When the wife made an earnest appeal for additional

help she was refused, and it was then for the first time she spoke sharp words to her husband.

Smarting under the sting of his wife's words, wearied with work, and almost tired of life, Farmer Tucker resolved that he would go somewhere for rest and recreation, and finally decided to go to Chautauqua.

Mr. Johnson, a neighbor, having had considerable experience in the dairy business, was employed to deliver daily to the patrons the products of the dairy, and one of Johnson's daughters was engaged to stay with Mrs. Tucker and assist her during the absence of her husband.

After an all-night's ride on the limited express Farmer Tucker found himself at the opening exercises of the New York Chautauqua. He had never before seen

such a spacious auditorium or so large an assembly. It seemed to him all too wonderful to be real.

John B. Gough was the first speaker introduced to the audience, and he began his lecture by telling one of his inimitable stories.

"A young married man who wished to obtain a divorce from his wife," said Mr. Gough, " called upon a lawyer and stated his case. The lawyer, seeing that there was no foundation for a divorce, said to his client, ' Go back home and commence courting your wife as you did before marriage, and continue it for two weeks. At the end of that time come again and tell me the result of your courtship; and if you then want a divorce, I will see what I can do for you.' Before the time had expired," said Mr. Gough, " the young

husband returned and said to the lawyer, 'Your advice works like a charm. I want no divorce.'"

At this point, Farmer Tucker, who had been listening with intense interest, said to himself, almost audibly, "I'll bet my bay mare that plan wouldn't work on Jane." When the lecture ended he could recall no part of it except the story.

He went out with merry parties sailing on the lake. In the auditorium he listened to joyful music, vocal and instrumental, but all the time he could see overworked Jane looking at him with reproachful eyes, and could hear her bitter words.

At the end of the third day Farmer Tucker decided to return home and try the lawyer's plan upon his wife, in order to prove its inefficacy in her case. He arrived home on Saturday, and on Sun-

day morning, as was his custom, he drove with his wife to church in town. His wife always remained after service to teach the Bible-class, while he usually drove home alone and left her to walk. On this occasion he unhitched the bay mare, took his seat in the buggy, and was about to start for home, when he recalled his purpose to try the lawyer's plan of courting his wife as he had done before marriage. After a period of meditation he said to himself, "It is really embarrassing for a married man to begin again to court his wife. I feel confident, too, that in our case it will not prove a success." While he thus soliloquized, the Bible-class was dismissed, and as his wife passed through the gate out of the church-yard he called, "Hello there, Jane, it's as cheap riding as walking—better get in and ride." She sup-

posed that he had been detained by some one. As he remained seated while she climbed into the buggy, it did not occur to her to thank him. Again, to himself, he said, "She did not even thank me for waiting."

Undaunted, however, by this seeming want of appreciation, he entered into conversation with her, on the way, and found her inclined to be agreeable.

As the days went by she noted with pleasure that his brief outing had wrought a wonderful transformation. Towards the close of the week he said to her, "Neighbor Johnson has made me a fair offer for our dairy stock. Do you think we would better sell?"

"That matter," said she, "belongs to your department of our affairs, and I prefer to leave it entirely to your judgment."

On Saturday afternoon, he informed his wife that he had closed the contract with Johnson for the sale of the dairy. At this she expressed satisfaction.

Sunday morning the wife had half a mind to ask her husband to wait after service for her, but she felt inclined to believe he would do so without the asking.

When the service closed the husband took his seat in the buggy and the wife went to her Bible-class. She afterwards confessed that while teaching the class she turned her eyes often to see if the bay mare's head was still in sight.

As the wife was coming through the gate the husband alighted from the buggy and said to her, "I'm waiting for you, Jennie"—Jennie was his pet name for her in the early days of their married life.

He assisted her to a seat, and as she

brushed a tear from her cheek she said, "John, it is so nice to have you wait for me."

Seeing the tears, he said, tenderly, "I did not think, Jennie, that you would care so much."

"I did not mind the walk," said she, "but it is so nice to have you think of me in this way."

As Farmer Tucker drove slowly homeward he said to his wife, "Jennie, for several days I have been thinking about the terrible blunder I have made in our married life. If you will only forgive——"

"I am only too glad to forgive you," said she, not allowing him to complete the sentence. "I, too, must ask your forgiveness, John, for the fault has not been all yours."

"I am ready to forgive, if I can think of anything that needs to be forgiven," said he.

The couple then and there plighted again their faith, each to the other, this time with warmer ardor and stronger love than when they stood before witnesses at the marriage altar.

Later, children were born to them to bless their home, and these made the love of the father and mother broader and deeper and more tender.

"Let fools spurn Hymen's gentle power;
We, by experience, know
That marriage, rightly understood,
Gives to the tender and the good,
A paradise below."

THE END

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